

BPFA AGM-TENNIS CLUB REPORT

Sep 2019-Sep 2020

1. 2019/20 represents something of an “annus mirabilis” in the history of the Tennis Club. In October, work commenced on the construction of our 5th Court, a major objective and milestone on the way to completing our 5 Year Development Plan, launched in 2013. The construction company, Trevor May, which had previously laid down Courts 3 and 4 in artificial clay, did not enjoy good weather but nevertheless, managed to complete all of the civil work by early December to a good standard. The Club took beneficial occupation of the court in that month, though play was only possible on temporary lines.
2. The overall cost of the Court was £61.5K of which about 50% was financed from grants from Sport England, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Windlesham Parish Council and Shanley Homes. Contributions also came from fundraising by members and from the Club’s sinking fund. Permanent spray painting was completed in good weather in June. With the addition of the fifth court, Bagshot LTC is now a significant force in the local tennis scene.
3. Membership continued to grow and reached overall adult numbers of around 120 by the end of the membership year in March 2020. At the end of March, catastrophe, in the form of Covid-19 struck the Club, as it did everywhere in the country. Membership renewal barely struggled above 60 in April and of course, all play was suspended in accordance with DCMS lockdown rules. The Club applied for help from SHBC and Sport England and was successful in obtaining £15k in emergency funds. As spring moved into early summer, tennis was one of the sports which was gradually freed of most playing restrictions. This had the impact of attracting many players from indoor venues and other sports who had been frustrated from their regular pursuits. By the end of September, adult membership had grown to 170, a level which, if sustained, should enable the Club to complete its development plan within the next two years. The next immediate objective is replacement of the current metal halide floodlights with LED projectors. This project is currently out to tender and should be completed over the winter.
4. Last but not least is the coaching and junior programme. Sadly, we lost our much loved coach, Jason Jokhoo, in March. Jason has decided to switch career and write children’s books and has been recently successful with a first publication. On the good news side, Jason has remained a member of the Club and will be playing in our Mens A Team this winter. Nevertheless, the club was delighted to welcome back Megan Emmett, Jason’s previous partner, as Head Coach. Megan had a tough start, owing to lockdown but since coaching has been permitted to re-start, has gone from strength to strength with many new members and juniors.
5. The arrival of so many new players has greatly strengthened the Club’s competitive side in both men and women’s teams and we look forward to significantly increasing our profile in the Woking League this winter.
6. Finally, the Club wishes to congratulate the BPFA in its magnificent refurbishment of the Pavilion over the last few months and as an affiliated Club, looks forward to working co-operatively with the BPFA Committee in the years to come.